



## How Alcohol Can React With Medications Commonly Used by Older People

<b>Alcohol Combined with</b>	<b>Can Cause</b>
*Sleeping medications Tranquilizers Anti-depressants Pain relievers Some muscle relaxants Some cold/cough products Some high blood pressure medications	Excessive drowsiness, impaired coordination, mental confusion, rapid intoxicification, loss of consciousness, impaired breathing, can be fatal
Anti-anginal medication Some high blood pressure medications	Dizziness, fainting, lightheadedness, loss of consciousness, falls which can result in physical injury
Aspirin Anti-arthritis medications	Increase in stomach irritation, possible increase in stomach bleeding
Oral anti-diabetic medications, some anti-fungal and antibiotic agents	Increase in reactions such as weakness, headache, nausea/vomiting, flushing, rapid heart beats, difficulty breathing
*Blood thinners Anti-diabetic medications Epilepsy medication Gout medication	Effectiveness of medicine in controlling the disease may be lost. Please consult your physician or pharmacist if you have questions.
*Monamine oxidase inhibitors	When taken with wines (especially red wines) containing tyramine can cause rise in blood pressure, dizziness, headaches and nausea. In extreme cases can cause brain hemorrhage and death.

\*These medicines combined with alcohol can result in some of the most serious reactions.  
(Adapted from: SRx Regional Program, Medication Education for Seniors and The Consumer's Guide to Drug Interactions, J.R. Schein and P. Hansten, Collier Books/Macmillan Publishing Co., 1993)

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